

## Message Text

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ACTION ERDA-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-07 FEAE-00

DODE-00 ERDE-00 /077 W

-----091835Z 094174 /53 41

R 091115Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2478

UNCLAS TEHRAN 4087

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO ERDA HDQTRS WASHDC ERDA HDQTRS GERMANTOWN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, USIRJC, IR

SUBJ: COOPERATION OF IRAN AND U.S. IN SOLAR ENERGY

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

REF: (A) STATE 093874 (B) 006902

1. AT SUGGESTION OF DR. VOJDANI, EMBOFF CONTACTED DR. LARIJANI, WHO IS MINISTRY OF ENERGY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAFTING REFTEL A REPORT TO INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON SOLAR ENERGY. DR. LARIJANI SAID REPORT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO BUT THEN WAS REFERRED TO THE SHAH FOR HIS COMMENTS/APPROVAL. TO DATE DR. LARIJANI HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY COMMENTS BACK ON HIS REPORT.

2. EMBOFF VISITED DR. VOJDANI AT MERC ON MAY 8 TO OBTAIN PRIORITIZED LIST OF IRANIAN PROJECTS REQUESTED REFTEL B. ACCORDING TO DR. VOJDANI, LARIJANI'S REPORT DID NOT CONTAIN ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR U.S./IRAN COOPERATION ON SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH BUT WAS SIMPLY INFORMATION REPORT ON TEAM'S VISIT TO U.S. (REFTEL B). IN ABSENCE OF ANY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS OR LISTING OF PRIORITY PROJECTS, VOJDANI GAVE EMBOFF BRIEF OUTLINE OF WHAT MERC CURRENTLY DOING IN SOLAR ENERGY FIELD, SUGGESTING THAT COOPERATION WITH

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ERDA COULD START ON INFORMAL BASIS AND DEPENDING ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED, EXPAND INTO MORE FORMALIZED PROJECTS. PRESENTLY SITE IN KARAJ MERC IS SETTING UP FACILITIES TO TEST VARIOUS SOLAR ENERGY COMPONENTS. MERC RECENTLY PURCHASED CONCENTRATOR, FOR TESTING AT KARAJ, FROM ATLANTA COMPANY WHICH HAS BEEN DOING DEVELOPMENT WORK ON CONCENTRATORS IN COOPERATION WITH GEORGIA TECH U. CONCENTRATOR MERC HAS PURCHASED IS 30 FT. ARRAY WITH

200 SQ. FT. OF APERTURE AREA, AND CAPABLE OF PRODUCING 10 KILO-WATTS. MERC ALSO PLANS PURCHASE ANOTHER CONCENTRATOR (MOVABLE TYPE) FROM SWITZERLAND FOR TESTING AT KARAJ.

3. IN AREA OF FUTURE U.S./IRANIAN COOPERATION IN SOLAR ENERGY, VOJDANI SUGGESTED FOLLOWING AS STARTERS: (A) DEVELOPMENT FOR USE IN IRAN OF SOLAR CELL PANEL ABOUT METER SQUARE WITH "FRESNEL" LENSE CONCENTRATOR WHICH TRACKS THE SUN. VOJDANI RECALLS SEEING SUCH A UNIT UNDER DEVELOPMENT AT SANDIA LAB., DURING HIS VISIT TO U.S.; (B) JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF TOTAL ENERGY SYSTEM FOR VILLAGE. AT FIRST STEP IN COOPERATION THIS AREA, VOJDANI PROPOSED SENDING MERC COMPUTER EXPERT TO SANDIA FOR TWO MONTHS THIS SUMMER TO FORMULATE JOINT PROJECT WITH SANDIA GROUP. GOI WILL PAY TRAVEL AND EXPENSES FOR THEIR EXPERT. CANDIDATE VOJDANI HAS IN MIND IS DR. REZA HASHEMIAN, DIRECTOR OF MERC COMPUTER AND ELECTRONICS DIVISION AND PHD FROM WISCONSIN WITH 12. YEARS EXPERIENCE IN COMPUTER FIELD. VOJDANI ADDED THAT MERC'S COOPERATION WITH FRENCH STARTED IN SAME INFORMAL MANNER WITH ONE PROJECT; NOW MERC HAS THREE FORMAL PROJECTS WITH FRENCH IN SOLAR ENERGY FIELD.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DR. VOJDANI WOULD APPRECIATE ERDA'S COMMENTS ON FEASIBILITY OF JOINT U.S./IRANIAN COOPERATION IN AREAS HE HAS SUGGESTED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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